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REMARKS

Status of the Application

1-10, 15, 37, 38, 48 and 54 are pending in the application. The pending claims are provisionally rejected under nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over five co-pending applications. The pending claims also stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

The claims have been amended to advance the prosecution by particularly specifying a *buffer layer* (rather than a *composition*) comprising an aqueous dispersion of a polydioxithiophene and at least one colloid-forming polymeric acid, and species thereof. As presented more fully below, Applicants respectfully submit that these amendments overcome the pending rejections for the reasons advanced. The claim amendments find support at page 2, lines 26-31 and *passim* of the present application. The amendments introduce no new matter.

Claim Rejections – Nonstatutory Obviousness-Type Double Patenting

As noted in the Office Action, these rejections are provisional since the references are all copending applications. Once claims have been allowed, and the rejections are no longer provisional, Applicants will address each rejection as appropriate.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102 or, in the Alternative, 35 U.S.C. § 103

EP '111

Claims 1-6, 15, 37, 38, 48 and 54 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over European Patent 0 593 111 (B1) assigned to Agfa-Gevaert N.V. ("EP '111"). This reference discloses an antistatic outermost coating on electrically insulating materials and further discloses components including polythiophenes of formula (I) and polymeric polyanion compounds. The dispersion disclosed is an antistatic layer coating composition (page 6, line 9). An important use of this antistatic layer composition is in the manufacture of silver halide emulsion materials for the photographic film industry (page 6, lines 54-55; see also page 7, lines 7-12). Other uses in the photographic imaging industry are described at page 7, lines 15-19). The specific utility of the coating layer material, reducing or eliminating damage to photosensitive material from static charges, is set forth on page 7, lines 20-26.

The buffer layer of the present claims is electrically conductive and facilitates the injection of holes from the anode into the electroluminescent polymer layer, and may itself be considered a hole-injection or transport layer or as part of a bilayer anode (Applicants' specification, page 1, lines 26-29). By claiming a *buffer layer* comprising a polydioxithiophene and a colloid-forming polymeric acid, there is an essential limitation not disclosed in EP '111, and Applicants respectfully submit that this alone is sufficient to overcome EP '111 as a section 102(b) reference. As to the alternative ground of rejection, there is nothing in this reference to suggest that the antistatic layer coating materials would be useful in a buffer layer

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for an OLED device. Nor is there anything taught or suggested in EP '111 to motivate one skilled in the art to modify the reference in any way to arrive at a buffer layer for OLEDs. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that these alternative rejections be withdrawn.

Pickup, et al.

Claims 1-10, 37, 48 and 54 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by, or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Pickup, et al., *J. New Mat. Electrochem. Systems* 3, 21-26 (2000) (hereafter, "Pickup"). Pickup identifies PEDOT/PSS and PEDOT/Nafion® as having utility in supercapacitors or as fuel cell catalyst supports (page 24, § 3.3 and page 25, § 3.4). Pickup does not disclose a buffer layer comprising a polydioxothiophene and at least one colloid-forming polymeric acid. The present claims also display advantages over the prior art that provide strong evidence that it would not have been obvious to apply a polydioxothiophene-polyacid dispersion as a buffer layer in a display. One advantage (page 4, line 35 to page 5, line 2; page 9, lines 21-26 of the application) is that the minute, electrically conductive particles are stable in the aqueous medium without forming a separate phase over a long time, and remain stable (do not redisperse) once the medium is dried into a film. OLEDs provided with claimed buffer layers have been found to have enhanced lifetimes (page 19, lines 7-9). The reduced acidity or neutrality of the buffer layers as claimed (see page 19, line 13 to page 20, line 2) avoids damage to formulation equipment and OLED components that may be caused by higher acidity films such as PEDOT/PSSA.

Nothing in Pickup teaches or suggests that Pickup's disclosure, or the disclosure as modified in some manner, would result on OLED buffers as claimed, or buffers having the advantages enumerated. There is no motivation in Pickup for modifying the disclosure in some way to arrive at the claimed buffer layers. Accordingly Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections have been rendered moot or overcome by the foregoing amendments and remarks, and that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. A notice of allowance is earnestly solicited.

A petition for extension of time (two months) accompanies this paper, and authorizes the Office to charge the fee for such extension to Deposit Account 04-1928 (E.I. du Pont de Nemours and Company). The final day for reply within the second month was Sunday June 11, so by operation of 37 C.F.R. § 1.7, the extended period for reply includes today, Monday June 12, so that the two month extension would be adequate.

Should the Examiner have questions about the content of this paper or the status of the application, he is invited to call the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,



JOHN H. LAMMING
ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANTS
Registration No.: 34,857
Telephone: (302) 992-5877
Facsimile: (302) 892-1026

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